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REMARKS

All of previously-pending claims 1-3 and 5-21 were rejected over U.S. Patent No. 5,282,205 to Kuznicki et al., either singly or in combination with one or more additional references. By the present amendment, claim 2 is canceled, claims 1, 13, and 17 are amended, and new claim 22 is added.

Claims 1, 13, and 17 are amended to specify that the data transmission is at a rate that is continuously-variable, i.e., over a continuous range of transmission rates, and that the sampled words (which contain synchronization bits) are separated by one or more words containing bits conveying other information. Support for the amendments is found, e.g., in paragraphs 3-5 and 41-42 of the originally-filed specification.

In contrast, as Applicant understands it, Kuznicki neither teaches a continuously variable rate of data transmission (rather, only three discrete possible speeds), nor synchronization performed on words containing synchronization bits that are separated by one or more words containing bits conveying other information. Advantages resulting from these distinctions are noted, e.g., in the above-cited portions of the specification, and it is further submitted that there would not have been reason (other than hindsight in light of the present invention) to modify Kuznicki in either regard. It is also not believed that a synchronous system employing a dedicated third clocking line such as Laturell reasonably could be utilized to alter an asynchronous system such as Kuznicki.

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Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone in order to expedite prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,
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